

SENATE No. 961

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan M. Menard

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to improve safety in high-rise buildings.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Joan M. Menard	First Bristol and Plymouth
James J. O'Day	14th Worcester District
Karen E. Spilka	Second Middlesex and Norfolk
Kay Khan	11th Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 26I of Chapter 148 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the following section:

Section 26J. (a) Every dwelling, building or structure occupied in whole or in part for residential, that: (1) is over four stories in height or (2) has occupied space above the height of the tallest fire department ladder shall be equipped with approved evacuation chairs on each stair well or evacuation route.

(b) The board of fire prevention regulations shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to effectuate this section including, but not limited to, the type, installation, location, maintenance and inspectional requirements of evacuation chairs or evacuation equipment as the board determines appropriate.

(c) Every dwelling, building or structure, occupied in whole or in part for residential purposes and meeting (1) and (2) in Section 26Ja, shall, upon sale or transfer of such dwelling, building or

13 structure, be inspected by the head of the fire department or his/her designee for compliance with
14 the requirements of this section.

15 (d) The board of fire prevention may require that property owners and operators, as defined in
16 Sect 26J (a), shall provide evacuation chairs or other equipment commensurate with the
17 anticipated need in time of an emergency.

18 (e) The head of the fire department or his/her designee shall enforce this section.